

## Theft or Large Cash Purchases of

- ▶ Cameras and other surveillance equipment
- ▶ Baby formula
- ▶ Cigarettes
- ▶ Beer/wine/liquor
- ▶ Uniforms (military, police, pilot, delivery, etc.)
- ▶ Weapons
- ▶ Vehicles
- ▶ Identity documents

## Suspicious Rentals of

- ▶ Storage facilities/warehouses
- ▶ Residences
- ▶ Apartments
- ▶ Hotels/motels
- ▶ Vehicles

## Unusual Discoveries of

- ▶ Weapons
- ▶ Explosives
- ▶ Communication equipment (emergency band radios, hand-held radios, prepaid cell phones, and prepaid calling cards)
- ▶ Large amount of consumable goods, such as baby formula, cigarettes, or beer/wine/liquor
- ▶ Large amount of medicines, especially over-the-counter
- ▶ Large amount of clothing, especially Levi jeans
- ▶ Identity documents (passports, birth certificates, social security cards, driver licenses—either originals or copies)

## **CONCLUSIONS**

It is difficult, if not impossible, to predict the time or location of a terrorist attack without adequate information. The only sure way to prevent such attacks is by gathering and acting upon intelligence in a timely matter and by sharing that information with other law enforcement agencies. Our best tool in the war on terrorism is you, **the public**.

If you have suspicions in your community about any of the Pre-Incident Indicators referenced in this brochure, you should obtain as much information as possible, including:

- ▶ Date, time, and location of the incident
- ▶ Physical identifiers of the person or persons
- ▶ Any vehicle descriptions
- ▶ And a description of the suspicious activity

**THEN** call the DPS Texas Security Alert and Analysis Center (TSAAC) at:

(512) 424-7981 (in Austin area)  
1-866-786-5972 (outside Austin area)

You may also submit your information via the Emergency Response Network website at

<https://www.texasalert.tx.gov>

or send an email to:

[tsaac@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:tsaac@txdps.state.tx.us)

You may also mail your information to:

Texas Department of Public Safety  
Special Crimes Service  
Counterterrorism Intelligence Unit  
PO Box 4087  
Austin, TX 78773-0420



The Special Crimes Service has been charged with the primary investigative and intelligence gathering responsibility relating to terrorism in Texas. The service must identify and assess new criminal trends, individuals, and organizations that target the citizens of Texas. Intelligence is the primary tool by which the service can identify, collect, document, analyze, and assess information on these new threats. To fulfill this role, the service has developed the Counterterrorism Intelligence Mission (CTIM) as a formalized intelligence group to act as a focal point for information that can assist in developing and supporting investigations of both international and domestic terrorism.

# TERRORISM



## *What the Public Needs to Know*



Prepared and distributed by the  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
Special Crimes Service  
Counterterrorism Intelligence Unit  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

Authorities have often asked the general public to remain vigilant and alert regarding terrorism, but just as often, the public has responded: "Remain vigilant and alert for what?" This brochure is intended to provide information that will help **YOU** to help **US** in our everyday effort to identify and stop terrorism—before it becomes a deadly and tragic reality.

## **WHO ARE THE TERRORISTS?**

Many terrorists are directed by countries or groups outside the United States. However, terrorists can also be US citizens (often called "extremists") who target the government, minorities, or foreign populations within the US. Whoever the terrorists are, and wherever they come from, they share one thing in common: they use unlawful force or violence in order to try to coerce and/or force a government or population to modify its philosophy and direction.

## PRE-INCIDENT INDICATORS

Acts of terrorism are usually well planned months or even years in advance. While the activities of terrorists and extremists are very subtle and covert, their attacks are often preceded by activities known as **Pre-Incident Indicators**. Pre-Incident Indicators can include a number of “signature” crimes—such as ID theft and burglary—but can also include seemingly harmless activities, such as taking photographs, renting apartments, or making large cash purchases. Terrorists also conduct surveillance of their targets, beginning well in advance of an attack and often continuing until just prior to the attack. Attention should be given to the following indicators, which may indicate an association with a terrorist organization or serve as an early warning of terrorist activity.

- ▶ Characteristics of a Terrorist
- ▶ Recruitment and Propaganda
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Movement of Personnel
- ▶ Acquisition of Money

## What are Some Characteristics of Terrorists?

- ▶ Typically focused and committed to their cause
- ▶ Team-oriented and very disciplined
- ▶ Trained to be familiar with their physical environment, whether it be a 747 jumbo jet or a courthouse
- ▶ Will employ a variety of vehicles and communicate predominately by cell phone, E-Mail, or text messaging services
- ▶ Well prepared to spend years in a “sleeper” mode until it is time to attack
- ▶ In many cases, will try to fit in and not draw attention to themselves
- ▶ May appear “normal” in their appearance and behavior while portraying themselves as a tourist, student, or businessperson
- ▶ May be found traveling in a mixed group of men, women, and children of varying ages, who are unaware of their purpose
- ▶ Trained to avoid confrontations with law enforcement and therefore can be expected to project a “nice-guy” image
- ▶ Known to use disguises or undergo plastic surgery, especially when featured on police wanted posters

## How do Terrorists Gain Support?

Terrorists gain support for their cause through a number of open and closed meetings, and they share information about their cause through:

- ▶ Public rallies, demonstrations, and private meetings sponsored by support groups
- ▶ Posters, leaflets, web sites, or underground press publications

## How do Terrorists Prepare for their “Mission”?

In order to prepare for their mission, members of terrorist organizations routinely:

- ▶ Conduct and participate in military-type maneuvers, demolition exercises, and weapons training
- ▶ Review and practice tactical training, including the use of communications equipment, tactical weapons, and/or weapons of mass destruction
- ▶ Attend, participate in, and practice spiritual indoctrination (to prepare for fanatical self-sacrifice), self-defense courses, flight training, HazMat training, and SCUBA training

## How do Terrorists Move Within our Community?

Terrorists seek to blend in with the surrounding community, often establishing their existence through a new identity. Terrorists tend to establish and maintain their new identity through:

- ▶ Obtaining counterfeit or altered driver licenses
- ▶ Altering vehicle registrations
- ▶ Carrying suspicious or forged identity documents
- ▶ Possessing photocopies of original identification documents (driver licenses, passports, birth certificates, social security cards, etc.)
- ▶ Establishing numerous residences through leased or rented property, or by staying in numerous hotels
- ▶ Carrying large amounts of cash and/or using cash payments for items that the average citizen might purchase with credit

## How do Terrorists Support their Cause?

Without adequate funding, terrorists cannot conduct their mission. Terrorists will therefore rely on easily obtainable, but illegal, funding. Law enforcement personnel refer to these criminal activities as “signature crimes of terrorism,” which include:

- ▶ Committing credit card fraud
- ▶ Producing and selling bogus prepaid telephone calling cards
- ▶ Selling stolen property or property bought with a stolen credit card
- ▶ Counterfeiting currency and credit cards
- ▶ Participating in coupon fraud
- ▶ Committing bank, mail, telephone, visa, and immigration fraud
- ▶ Transporting and selling drugs

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

What kinds of things might the public encounter that could indicate terrorism support or terrorist activity?

- ▶ Intelligence Collection Practices
- ▶ Theft or Large Cash Purchases of Common or Unusual Items
- ▶ Suspicious Rentals
- ▶ Unusual or Odd Discoveries

## Intelligence Collection Practices

- ▶ Photographing, diagramming, or obtaining photographs, diagrams, or blueprints of infrastructure or potential targets (bridges, power grid/plants, water plants, federal/government buildings, etc.)
- ▶ Possessing or purchasing maps of potential targets
- ▶ Possessing or purchasing global positioning systems (GPS)
- ▶ Walking, biking, or driving in or near potential targets, without a specific and valid reason (may indicate surveillance, trial runs, testing of the target's security system, or testing of how authorities respond to their actions)